



STATE OF IOWA

ISSUE 6

REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (RIO) LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS PAST ISSUES
CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.rio.iowa.gov/news/legislative_weekly/index.html

RIO MISSION:

The Rebuild Iowa Office will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

RIO VISION:

We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

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RIO, FEMA HOST WORKSHOPS WITH DISASTER-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Eight workshops were recently held by the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to deliver valuable information to disaster-affected communities on how to move forward with, and implement, long-term recovery plans.

The RIO's Community and Regional Recovery Planning team assisted in the workshops which concentrated on communications, decision-making, program development and funding options to assist in the recovery process.

Workshops were held in Palo, Oakville, New Hartford, Iowa City/Coralville, Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls/Waterloo, Waverly and



Community members in Cedar Falls and Waterloo work on the Decision-Making Guide, one of the tools developed to help communities with their long-term recovery plans.

Parkersburg Feb. 20-26. The information focused on experiences and best practices learned from disasters in other parts of the country, as well as last year's destructive weather and flooding in Iowa.

The RIO has plans to take the workshops to more disaster-affected communities in the future. The tools presented at the workshops are available on the RIO's Web site under the Long-Term Community Recovery tab at www.rio.iowa.gov.

TWO-DAY SESSION FOCUSES ON HOUSING ISSUES



Disaster-related housing issues were discussed at last week's two-day session.

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) along with the Department of Economic Development (IDED) and the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) held a two-day housing working session in Coralville Feb. 18-19. The meeting offered administrators of the Jumpstart Housing program a chance to discuss issues with the current system and draft

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HF 64 UPDATE - INDIVIDUAL UNMET NEEDS DISASTER GRANT

Since HF 64 was signed into law earlier this month, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) has coordinated the development of the \$10 million Individual Unmet Needs Disaster Grant program. The RIO has worked closely with local Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTCRs) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to get this new program up and running.

With the DHS, the RIO created program guidelines which support the intent of the legislation while offering as much flexibility as

possible so that disaster-affected Iowans receive this needed assistance quickly. During its weekly conference calls with the LTCRs, the RIO's Case Management Coordination team introduced the new program. This included offering the detailed program guidelines, applications to be filled out by the individual case workers, and a step-by-step guide to implementing the program. The application has been finalized and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been sent to all

committees. The RIO has so far received MOUs from four LTCRs that cover Butler, Linn, Polk and Scott counties. The RIO has been a resource for these LTCRs as they prepare for administering the program at the local level.

The RIO has also been working with FEMA to ensure that Iowans maximize these additional funds available but don't duplicate services as outlined in HF 64. The RIO will continue to keep legislators updated on the latest program developments.



MARCH TO BE DECLARED "FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH"

Beginning next week, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) with the Iowa Insurance Division (IID), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) will team up to inform the public about flood safety and precautions.

The RIO has scheduled interviews with media outlets across Iowa to provide information about how Iowans can prepare for possible flooding often associated with spring weather.

Another focus of the flood awareness campaign is to inform Iowans about the National Flood Insurance

Program. This program is particularly important for Iowans to consider as the state continues to recover from 2008's historic summer flooding.

For more information about the National Flood Insurance Program, visit www.fema.gov/business/nfip/.



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ideas to streamline and expedite the existing process.

The working session brought together representatives of the 11 Councils of Government (COGs) and entitlement cities distributing Jumpstart funds as well

as mayors and city officials from 15 of Iowa's most disaster-affected cities.

The discussion focused on property acquisitions, new housing production, and the Jumpstart Housing program. The session also allowed participants to share best practices while identifying

bottlenecks in the system and to develop ways to improve communication at the state and local level.

With the information drawn from this session, the RIO, IDED and IFA will be working with local entities to further address Iowa's disaster-related housing needs.

